

DATE 1725Z 26 MAY 63

SECRET

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM :

ACTION: OSA (1-15)

INFO : S/C (16)

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

IN 77733

TOR: 1757Z 26 MAY 63

TO OPIM [REDACTED]
OXCART SECUR

INFO

CITE [REDACTED] 9680

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM COPY OF ARTICLE APPEARING ON
PAGE ONE OF LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL, SUNDAY EDITION, 26 MAY 63.
QUOTE: MYSTERY SHROUDS JET PLANE CRASH. A CLOUD OF TIGHT-
LIPPED SECRECY TODAY SURROUNDED THE CRASH OF A \$2.5 MILLION F-105
JET FIGHTER NEAR THE NEVADA-UTAH STATE LINE.

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE OFFICIALS REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THE
PILOT OF THE SPEED-OF-SOUND PLANE, BUT SAID HE EJECTED SAFELY
TO EARTH AND WAS NOT INJURED.

THE NAMES OF SUCH PILOTS ARE USUALLY RELEASED IMMEDIATELY.

SPECULATION AROSE AT ONCE THAT THE PILOT MAY HAVE BEEN
SOMEONE CONNECTED WITH THE U.S. SPACE PROGRAM OR PERHAPS ANOTHER
OF THE NATION'S FAMED AIRMEN.

SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE CRASH FRIDAY, HOWEVER, AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WOULD NOT EVEN ADMIT THE PLANE
HAD CRASHED.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

ALL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING USAF PLANES MUST, ACCORDING TO
GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS, BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE PENTAGON.

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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THIS ONE APPARENTLY WAS NOT - OR IF IT WAS THE PENTAGON WOULD NOT ADMIT IT.

TO ADD TO THE MYSTERY, THE F-105 WAS ASSIGNED TO THE AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB NEAR DAYTON, OHIO - ONE OF THE USAF'S TOP EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS. UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM COPY OF ARTICLE APPEARING ON PAGE ONE LAS VEGAS SUN, SUNDAY EDITION, 26 MAY 63.

QUOTE: WENDOVER JET CRASHES. WENDOVER, NEVADA (UPI) - THE AIR FORCE TODAY WITHHELD IDENTIFICATION OF THE PILOT WHO EJECTED SUCCESSFULLY WHEN HIS JET TRAINER CRASHED YESTERDAY.

THE AIRCRAFT, BASED AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO, HAD TAKEN OFF FROM NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE AT LAS VEGAS SHORTLY BEFORE IT CRASHED 14 MILES SOUTHEAST OF HERE.

NELLIS OFFICIALS DECLINED TO RELEASE INFORMATION ABOUT THE INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF SUCH CRASHES ORDINARILY ARE DISCLOSED PROMPTLY UNLESS CLASSIFIED MATTERS ARE INVOLVED.

ELKO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES WHO WENT TO THE SCENE SAID AIR FORCE OFFICERS HAD ARRIVED EARLIER AND "CLOSED" THE PILOT. UNQUOTE.

3. SEVERAL STAFF PERSONNEL REPORT HAVING HEARD TELEVISION NEWSCAST BY GORDON KENT, KORT-TV, AT APPROXIMATELY 1830 HRS LOCAL, 25 MAY 63. KORT-TV OWNED BY LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL. SUBSTANCE OF COMMENT RE INCIDENT FOLLOWS:

WRIGHT-PATTERSON DENIES ANY KNOWLEDGE OF CRASHED F-105 AND

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S E C R E T

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CLAIMS THAT ONLY JET TO LAND AT NAFB FROM WRIGHT-PATTERSON IN
LAST MONTH WAS A T-33 WHICH HAS BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR. KENT NOTED
IT IS NORMAL NELLIS POLICY TO GIVE NAME OF A DOWNED PILOT BUT
IN THIS CASE THE PILOT'S NAME WAS NOT RELEASED.

KENT ADDED SUBSTANTIALLY THAT THE TELEVISION VIEWING PUBLIC
IS FAMILIAR WITH INTER-SERVICE RELUCTANCE TO EXCHANGE MILITARY
INFORMATION, BUT THAT THIS INSTANCE OF INTRA-SERVICE INABILITY
TO COORDINATE IS EXTRAORDINARY.

4. GENERAL HUBBARD, NAFB, FEELS PRESS SITUATION IS UNDER
CONTROL.

5. MONITORING OF NEWS MEDIA CONTINUES.

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END OF MESSAGE

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